

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~(1) for receiving a plurality of data packets and for routing the data packets in a data network~~, comprising:

a storing unit means ~~(11) for storing~~ configured to store a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

a detecting unit means ~~(12) for detecting~~ configured to detect special data packets in ~~the~~ a received plurality of data packets based on ~~the basis of~~ the pre-defined list of rules stored in said storing unit means ~~(11)~~; and

a routing unit means ~~(13) for requesting~~ configured to request instructions for the special data packets detected by said detecting unit means ~~(12) and for routing and route~~ the special data packets in accordance with instructions received on request~~[[,]]~~; and

~~characterized by:~~

an internal entity ~~(14) for storing~~ configured to store instructions for the special data packets~~[[,]]~~;

wherein said routing unit means ~~(13) is arranged~~ is configured to notify said internal entity ~~(14)~~ of the detected special data packets and request instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity ~~[[(14),]]~~; and

wherein an external entity ~~(2) is arranged~~ is configured to determine and update the instructions stored in said internal entity ~~(14)~~ during active operations.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein said routing unit means ~~(13) is arranged~~ is configured to notify the external entity ~~(2)~~ of the detected special data packets instead of said internal entity, and request instructions for the special data packets from said external entity ~~(2)~~ instead of said internal entity.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein said external entity is ~~arranged~~ configured to determine and update the rules stored in said storing unit means ~~(11)~~ during active operations.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein said routing unit ~~means (13) is arranged~~ is configured to modify the special data packets in accordance with the received instructions.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein said routing unit ~~means (13) is arranged~~ is configured to communicate with an external charging entity ~~(3)~~ for charging the routing of the special data packets.

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for receiving a plurality of data packets and for routing the data packets in a data network~~, comprising the steps of:

storing ~~(S1)~~ a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

detecting ~~(S3)~~ special data packets in ~~the~~ a received plurality of data packets based on the basis of the stored pre-defined list of rules; ~~and~~

requesting ~~(S4)~~ instructions for the detected special data packets and routing ~~(S5)~~ the special data packets in a data network in accordance with instructions received on request[[,]]; ~~and~~

~~characterized by the steps of:~~

~~in the requesting step[[,]]~~

notifying an internal entity ~~(14)~~ of the detected special data packets and requesting instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity when requesting the instructions for the detected special data packets [[(14),]];

wherein the instructions stored in said internal entity ~~(14)~~ are determined and updated by an external entity ~~(2)~~ during active operations.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 6, wherein said requesting step ~~(S4)~~ comprises the steps of:

notifying said external entity ~~(2)~~ of the detected special data packets instead of said internal entity; and

requesting instructions for the special data packets from said external entity ~~(2)~~ instead of said internal entity.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 6, wherein the stored rules ~~stored~~ ~~in said storing step~~ are determined and updated by said external entity ~~(2)~~ during active operations.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 6, wherein said routing step (S5) comprises ~~the step of~~:

modifying the special data packets in accordance with the received instructions.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~ of claim 6, further comprising ~~the further step of~~:

communicating with an external charging entity ~~(3)~~ for charging the routing of the special data packets.

11. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which ~~an~~ the apparatus of claim 1 is employed.

12. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which ~~an~~ the apparatus of claim 2 is employed.

13. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which ~~an~~ the apparatus of claim 3 is employed.

14. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which ~~an~~ the apparatus of claim 4 is employed.

15. (Previously Presented) A data network system in which ~~an~~ the apparatus of claim 5 is employed.

16. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

storing means configured to store a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

detecting means configured to detect special data packets in a received plurality of data packets based on the pre-defined list of rules stored in said storing means;

routing means configured to request instructions for the special data packets detected by said detecting means and route the special data packets in accordance with instructions received on request; and

an internal entity configured to store instructions for the special data packets;

wherein said routing means is configured to notify said internal entity of the detected special data packets and request instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity; and

wherein an external entity is configured to determine and update the instructions stored in said internal entity during active operations.

17. (New) A network element, comprising:

a routing unit configured to request instructions for special data packets detected by a detecting unit and route the special data packets in accordance with instructions received on request; and

wherein said routing unit is configured to notify an internal entity of the detected special data packets and request instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity.

18. (New) The network element of claim 17, wherein said routing unit is configured to notify an external entity of the detected special data packets instead of said internal entity, and request instructions for the special data packets from said external entity instead of said internal entity.

19. (New) The network element of claim 17, wherein said routing unit is configured to modify the special data packets in accordance with the received instructions.

20. (New) The network element of claim 17, wherein said routing unit is configured to communicate with an external charging entity for charging the routing of the special data packets.

21. (New) A computer-readable medium, the computer-readable medium being encoded with a computer program, the computer program comprising:

- program code for storing a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

- program code for detecting special data packets in a received plurality of data packets based on of the stored pre-defined list of rules;

- program code for requesting instructions for the detected special data packets and routing the special data packets in a data network in accordance with instructions received on request; and

- program code for notifying an internal entity of the detected special data packets and requesting instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity when requesting the instructions for the detected special data packets;

- wherein the instructions stored in said internal entity are determined and updated by an external entity during active operations.